

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8213

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GR, CY, TU, UN
SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

REF: STATE 212119

1. THE GUATEMALAN DRAFT RESOLUTION CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION
IN COMMITTEE I ON SEPTEMBER 5. EFFORTS TO CLOSE DEBATE
WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND FOLLOWING INTENSE DISCUSSION THE RESOLUTION
WAS ADOPTED BUT ONLY AFTER THE MORE OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS
HAD BEEN DELETED OR CHANGED THROUGH AMENDMENTS. THE U.S. DELEGATION
ABSTAINED ON THE FINAL VOTE.

2. ALTHOUGH THE GUATEMALAN DELEGATE HAD PREVIOUSLY
INDICATED TO THE UK DELEGATE THAT HE PLANNED TO WITHDRAW
HIS RESOLUTION, IN THE END HE DID NOT DO SO. THE NORWEGIAN
DELEGATE THEN PROPOSED THAT DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION BE
CLOSED. GREECE, WHICH HAD EARLIER ANNOUNCED IT WAS CO-
SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION, SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF FULL
DISCUSSION BEFORE CLOSURE. THE SOVIET DELEGATE ALSO
SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF FULL DISCUSSION. IN HIS REMARKS
HE REFERRED TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND ISRAELI NAMING
OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK. THE HUNGARIAN CHAIRMAN
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OF THE COMMITTEE WAS APPARENTLY BOTH PARTIAL AND INEPT AND,
AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO U.S. DELEGATE DR. BURRILL, THERE
WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION. THE NORWEGIAN CLOSURE PROPOSAL WAS
DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF 12 FOR (US), 22 AGAINST AND 17 ABSTAINING.

3. INTENSE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON THE RESOLUTION WITH
NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS PROPOSED. AS A RESULT, PREAMBU-

LAR PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ("FURTHER RECOGNIZING THAT ... ITS WRITTEN ANALYSIS REFLECTS ITS ANCESTRY, DIFFERENCES AND LIFE") WAS DELETED. THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH WAS CHANGED FROM "URGES..." ETC. TO "RECOMMENDS THAT TO THE RECOMMENDATION A OF THE GENEVA RESOLUTION NO. 4 SHOULD BE ADDED THE FOLLOWING: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ANY CHANGES MADE BY OTHER AUTHORITIES IN THE NAMES STANDARDIZED BY THE COMPETENT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AUTHORITY SHOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS".

4. DR. BURRILL TOLD US THAT THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION WAS 27 FOR (INCLUDING BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS FROM THE EC-9), ZERO AGAINST, 18 ABSTENTIONS (US) AND 3 DELEGATIONS (PRC) NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE VOTE. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AS TO THE EXACT LANGUAGE THE DELEGATES WERE VOTING ON SINCE THE CHAIRMAN NEVER READ IT OUT. SEVERAL EFFORTS ON BURRILL'S PART TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR TO REQUEST A CLARIFICATION WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. HE, THEREFORE, ABSTAINED.

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